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The Tech

Established 1881

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Thursday, June 29, 2017

WEATHER

THU: 83°F | 67°F
Mostly Cloudy

FRI: 89°F | 70°F
Chance T-Storm

SAT: 90°F | 71°F
Chance T-Storm

ABRAHAM QUINTERO

Students protested Senior House decisions by sleeping on mattresses in front of President Reif's office June 19.

New House students debate relocation to SH amid confusion on space allocation

Housing says there will be enough room for all SH residents approved to return, but students have doubts

By Vivian Zhong and Anshula Gandhi
NEWS EDITORS

Conflicting claims about the reallocation of beds in Senior House next academic year has created confusion for New House residents as they debate whether or not to accept MIT Housing's offer to move to Senior House.

Two weeks ago, MIT Housing offered New House houses Desmond, iHouse, and La Casa the opportunity to move together to E2 for the 2017-2018 academic year, during which the dorm will undergo renovations. iHouse was set to move within New House, Desmond to be split up, and La Casa to move as a unit to MacGregor.

The initial offer was made via June 13 emails to each house's leadership. iHouse and Desmond both declined. The offer was then extended in emails Monday to individual members of those houses, as well as to members of House 2, who had previously been relocated to other dorms. Decisions are expected by the end of the week.

In both communications, Jennifer Hapgood-White, associate director of housing assignments, maintained that the number of Senior House residents accepted during the re-application process would not be affected by New House residents moving in.

"All former Senior House residents whose applications are successful will be guaranteed space in Senior House," Hapgood-White wrote in a response yesterday to New House residents' questions. Instead, "the number of New House residents placed temporarily in Senior House will affect the number of spots available to first-year students" moving in as part of Pilot 2021.

In the same email, Hapgood-White wrote that "residents of the [E2], including any Senior House residents who are approved to return, will get to choose their own culture and governance."

In a June 18 email urging New House residents to not move to Senior House, dorm president Sabrina Madera '19 and East Campus resident Tesla Wells '20 claimed that administrators have "heavily, heavily implied that NH residents will receive however many beds they want, and the pool of SH accepted to return will be capped by the remaining number of beds."

In a phone interview with The Tech, Kim Haberlin, senior communications officer for the chancellor, said it was "unlikely" that anyone from the administration had sent any emails to that effect.

New House and Senior House leadership later sent a joint statement to New House residents, backtracking from the previous email: "Moving forward, both leaderships want to stress the importance of letting individual houses make their decisions on whether or not they want to move into SH, without pressure or guilt."

In an email last night to The

New House, Page 8

Residents barred from having lawyers present at interviews

SH residents discuss concerns about admins' review process

By Karleigh Moore
NEWS EDITOR

Senior House residents were informed April 20 of an impending "review process" which included voluntary interviews to investigate what the chancellor called "dangerous behavior."

Senior House residents could only view their rights for the review process interview by going to their associate head of house's office to view a hard copy. Residents were explicitly barred from having a lawyer present during the voluntary interviews.

The Tech obtained an email sent to residents by the associate head of Senior House, Kristen Covino, who said she "was able to negotiate a hard copy" of "Students' Rights" during the interviews. Residents, Covino wrote, could stop by her office to

Senior House, Page 8

Nearly forty percent of SH is underrepresented minorities

East-side dorms house 30% more non-heterosexual students than west-side dorms, new data show

By Karleigh Moore and Vivian Zhong
NEWS EDITOR

The Provost's office recently released data detailing student demographics by residence hall including race, ethnicity, gender (data from the registrar); family income (data from student financial services), and sexual orientation (data from a question in the enrolled students survey which had a 58 percent response rate).

In 2014, the Division of Student Life sent The Tech data from MIT Institutional Research using fall term 2013-2014 enrollment statistics detailing the race and ethnicity makeups of the dorms.

The 2015-2016 data sheds light on claims that recent decisions concerning Senior House will affect a disproportionately large population of marginalized students — particularly those that are underrepresented minorities, LGBTQ, or from low-income families.

The data shows that Senior House ranks second for percentage of residents that are underrepresented minorities. Senior House has similar proportions of non-heterosexual students as the other east-side dorms, East Campus and Random Hall; east-side overall has a higher proportion of non-heterosexual students than west campus, at about 39 percent compared to 9 percent.

The financial data on Senior House residents indicate that their family incomes lean moderately towards the lower end of the spectrum. However, the family income profile of Senior House is not noticeably different from the profiles of west campus dorms such as MacGregor and New House. Random Hall has the highest proportion of residents in the lowest income bracket, while East Campus has a similar profile to McCormick Hall and Next House.

Burton Conner has the least percentage of residents in the lowest income bracket and the greatest percentage of residents in the highest income bracket.

Race and ethnicity

According to the 2015-2016 dataset released by the Provost's office, 24 percent of all dorm residents are underrepresented minorities (URM), as identified by registrar data. 83 percent of underrepresented minority students live in west campus dorms. 43.5 percent of New House and 36.6 percent of Senior House residents are URM students. Baker House and Random Hall have the lowest proportions of URM students, at 16 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

URM students are defined by the Provost's office as Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaska-Native, and Hawaiian/Pacific-Islander.

According to the 2013-2014 dataset, 24 percent of all dorm residents were URMs; 25 percent of residents in west campus dorms were URMs, and 19 percent of east-side dorms were URMs. New House had 40 percent URM, the highest of all 11 dorms, followed by Simmons at 35 percent. In this dataset, Senior House was the fourth most diverse dorm with a URM representation of 26 percent of residents. Random Hall and Baker House had the lowest proportions of minority students, at 14 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

Family income

The 2015-2016 data showed that tier 1, 2, and 3 dorms have a similar makeup with respect to family income. Tier 1 dorms are the most expensive housing options, with a double costing $4,710 this upcoming year. Tier 2 doubles will be $4,390, and

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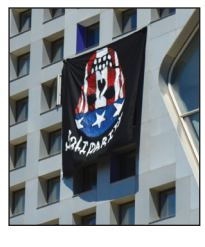
NAT ROLLOUT

IS&T gets it wrong. Read SIPB's take on new updates to the MIT network. **OPINION, p. 2**

BARNHART SPEAKS

The chancellor responds to concerns and rumors about Senior House and Pilot 2021. **OPINION, p. 2**



SOLIDARITY FOR SH

Flags hung from dorms around campus to protest Senior House decision. **PHOTO, p. 4**

FUN WITH STATS

A vividly-colored comparative analysis of dorm demographic data.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Senior House decision: Chancellor Barnhart responds

In the two weeks since we shared with Senior House students our plan for next year, I have received many messages from the MIT community, and stayed in regular contact with student leaders from Senior House, Dormcon, and the UA. I am listening, as I have tried to do throughout this entire process. And I am grateful to everyone for keeping the lines of communication open.

I'm writing because many of the concerns people are bringing to me are based on inaccurate information and a misunderstanding of what brought us to this point. What I find most troubling are the accusations that this is somehow intended as an attack on vulnerable populations or on students' ability to self-govern. This decision is about one thing: providing every MIT student with a safe environment.

I want to be clear about a few more things:

Our June 12 decision was not about graduation rates, and it was not about survey results. It was about the specific actions and behaviors of Senior House residents at a time when they were ostensibly committed in good faith to a turnaround process. Throughout this past year, we invested time, energy, and resources into supporting Senior House students while trying to address behaviors that cross dangerous lines. These efforts were undermined and trust was broken when we learned this spring that unsafe and unhealthy activities persisted. We faced an unacceptable dynamic: Individuals took actions that were dangerous, unhealthy for themselves and their environments, and seriously violated MIT policies, and the Senior House community knew about and accepted these dangerous activities and behaviors.

> **"This decision is about one thing: providing every MIT student with a safe environment."**

To protect students' privacy, we do not want to publicly disclose the specifics of the actions in question. We shared with the Senior House community the information that led to the decision, and we discussed with them the possibility that students would be required to move out. I have been asked if having all Senior House students move out and participate in a selective return process is unfair. It isn't unfair given the facts of this situation and the collective community's unwillingness to work toward the turnaround's goals. In 2017-2018, Senior House will be a different community consisting of a mix of first-year students, New House residents, and Senior House students who were not involved in or accepting of the dangerous actions that occurred during the turnaround.

Pilot 2021 has been called a secret scheme to impose freshman-only housing everywhere and the beginning of a campaign to homogenize dorm culture. It's neither. Here's what it is: a one-year solution designed to prevent crowding in other residence halls and connect first-year students to features that students have repeatedly asked for, like more interaction with faculty. Pilot 2021 is optional – students living in Senior House next year are free to take advantage of the program's opportunities, or not. They should also be free to define for themselves what their own living experience will be and what matters to them. This is foundational to MIT's unique residential system, and it's something that students and alumni should all respect.

At this point, my focus is to make sure current Senior House students move with their friends to new communities and have the support they need. We have set up a relocation team to offer personalized assistance, and we are working with all undergraduate heads of house on the moves. MIT is fortunate to have residence halls that are welcoming to all students from all backgrounds. I am confident that we will find Senior House students new communities where they can feel at home.

Cynthia Barnhart SM '85, PhD '88
Chancellor, MIT

GUEST COLUMN

SIPB: IS&T's rollout of NAT creates more problems than it solves

By Miguel Young de la Sota

Last Friday, with 12 hours of notice, IS&T began the rollout of a NAT (network address translation) system, which allows IS&T to replace existing publicly reachable IPv4 addresses on NET-18, MIT's vast historical range of public addresses, with private addresses in NET-10. A few smaller buildings in West Campus, as well as the Walker Memorial, were affected.

While the NAT allows IS&T to compress MIT's usage of NET-18 into a smaller range, and people connecting to the internet with their laptops and cellphones from campus won't likely notice a change, all servers behind the NAT will no longer be reachable from the public internet.

Despite this side effect, a NAT, by itself, does not actually provide any security benefits: only properly configured firewall settings can. Although network security is one of IS&T's stated purposes in implementing a campus NAT, they are actually achieving their claimed security by rolling out a campus firewall.

On Wednesday, IS&T posted an FAQ in which they confirm their plan to consolidate their use of NET-18 beyond the lower half of the range, presumably to sell more address space than originally announced by Ruiz. The Provost and the EVPT indicated that proceeds from selling addresses in NET-18 are to be used both to improve MIT's network infrastructure and to fund research for the improvement of the internet. At a market price of $20 per address, the entire NET-18 range of 16 million addresses is worth around $334 million, a formidable fortune. Certainly, using this fortune to create immediate and tangible benefits at MIT is a noble goal.

However, the NAT, and IS&T's rollout process, create many more problems than they set out to solve, especially since the address ranges MIT currently wishes to keep, the 8 million addresses in the lower half of NET-18, is more than sufficient for every Internet-enabled device on campus, and IPv6 adoption, which promises MIT more addresses than there has been picoseconds since the Big Bang, is measured by Google at barely 20% worldwide.

Although IS&T announced the general plan for the NAT in an IT Partners meeting earlier this month, the initial rollout was made on a very short notice, at the end of a work week. If IS&T continues this practice of making surprise changes, unless maintainers are standing by at the precise moment when IS&T performs network switchovers, their machines will fall off the public internet, possibly breaking their services. For example, last Friday, WMBR's XM radio service and MIT Student Cable became inaccessible when the NAT turned on in the Walker Memorial.

Until now, getting a static public address is a simple web form away, and students can set it up on any computer they wish; the NAT implementation places this power in IS&T's dynamic host configuration (DHCP), tied down to specific hardware. As IS&T plans to eventually migrate almost all of MIT's campus behind the NAT, including dorms, it will be harder for students to prototype internet services reachable from anywhere on Earth, even those not achievable with ordinary web technology, right in their dorm room.

In fact, the NAT doesn't just hurt student developers who create new internet services; it also hurts all students who potentially use those services. Many popular student-developed projects, like CourseRoad and Planner, were built in dorm rooms, all thanks to the ease of obtaining public MIT addresses and hostnames combined with crufted hardware from reuse. And while BitTorrent will not be blocked, the service's peer-to-peer nature may mean that the implementation of NAT will reduce download speeds.

SIPB believes that access to a virtually unlimited pool of public IPv4 addresses is a privilege that tremendously enhances the value of an MIT education, both for students learning to build new internet services and for students who use those services. As such, we advocate for a full rollback of NAT deployment on campus networks. We are currently working with IS&T to find a solution which ensures that students and other members of the MIT community are still able to set up public internet services with the ease static addresses afford, and we hope that these issues are resolved swiftly and peacefully.

Miguel Young de la Sota '18 is the chair of the Student Information Processing Board (SIPB), MIT's volunteer student computing group. This article is written on behalf of the organization.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Senior House is a vital refuge for its residents

First, let me introduce myself. I'm a professor at Michigan State University, in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. I was an undergraduate at MIT for four years (1998-2002) and lived in Senior House the entire time. This letter is to share my personal experiences with the dorm, observations of its impact on my life, and raise questions with regard to the treatment of Senior House residents. As a woman in science, I never felt like I fit anywhere. But I belonged in Senior House.

Agreed on axioms:

- Campuses have to be safe.
- We aim to build a supportive community for the students, built with the consent of those students.

Serious criticisms of the dorm have been raised, notably, low graduation rates and drug abuse. I never did drugs at Senior House, nor did I ever witness anyone doing drugs. I helped at Steer Roast, sober in all senses of the word, to ensure the safety of residents and guests. But, drug and alcohol abuse is a widespread problem across college campuses nationally, and should be taken seriously.

Questions:

- Where is the evidence that Senior House is a more harmful place for students? As I will discuss later, students may come from different backgrounds, and concentrations of these students may bring down graduation rates. How was drug use on campus measured?
- How does this solution solve the problem of drug and alcohol abuse across campus? I fear we are ignoring a broader issue by focusing on one place. Redistributing residents does not reduce use, it merely reduces standard deviation.

To counter these negative stereotypes of Senior House, let me share my own experiences and how they have helped me in my profession. I believe that Senior House significantly widened my worldview, which has given me increased empathy and skills when interacting with the undergraduates whom I interact with. Let me give some examples:

- I walked past a room and someone invited me in to watch "Live at the Apollo", a talent show in the famed Harlem theater. I'm white, and from a predominantly white state. I thought I knew "everything". Hah! There was this whole big world right in America I'd never heard about; never saw broadcasted.
- The halls are covered in murals. I am not an artist, but by the end of my senior year I got up the nerve to make my own mural based on a comic book. Others of us coped with tragedy or success by writing on the walls. There was something freeing and safe about being surrounded by our creations.
- People cooked in the kitchens not just because they liked to cook but because they couldn't afford not to. That was a real eye opener to me, given that I grew up always having food and never worrying about finances.
- The House's culture of openness created a safe space to talk about sexual abuse. I experienced early on the discomfort of hearing about someone else's pain, and the ugliness in the world I was shielded from. I have learned firsthand to let victims lead, and offer support without judgement. In my current job, I need to be ready to support survivors of violence.

The students I interact with as a professor come from a wide variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. I now understand that I don't know where many of them are coming from, and that I need to listen. In science as well, being open to culture has been helpful for the 500+ person collaborations I am a part of.

The culture of Senior House is derived from its values:

- Taking care of each other.
- Welcoming differences.
- Individual freedom and communal responsibility.

Where are these values in the actions taken against the residents of Senior

House? Where are they in the new program planned for Senior House (Pilot 2021)? Why were they omitted?

Senior House was there for me, and there for many people I knew when they were hurt, abused or run down. In those horrible dark times, you need a lifeline. At Senior House, it wasn't just one person. It was the physicist who encouraged me to continue in science. It was the the GRTs who were there with health information. I remember one particularly terrible night when I was very sad. I walked around a silent House and found my way to Towers to watch the night sky. I met someone up there I hadn't met before, and we just sat and talked about the insomnia and faced the uncertainty of the future together.

I think about the rising concerns over mental health on college campuses. I think about the students I talk to who are anxious and stressed to their limits, for very real reasons. And if I could make Senior House at MSU, I would in a heartbeat, because it was a unique support network. I don't have hard numbers, but I do know that the positive experience I had at Senior House was contrasted by 5 deaths to suicide in my first two years of MIT. I suspect Senior House could have saved the freshman of my class year who killed himself after coming out to his parents. With the changes to Senior House, and the fact that it has students who have more challenging backgrounds, how do we make sure they aren't isolated? That they are safe?

Now let's talk hard numbers. What are we doing about MIT's documented higher than average suicide rate? Can we learn from Senior House's unique culture about how to support students in new ways?

Most critically, what are we doing to support the current residents of Senior House who are having to re-apply to their home?

Please also note, that none of what I've said negates serious concern related to drug use or unsafe behavior which can hurt students. But, I'm writing today because I see a real harm in the solution proposed. Students, even if they have not had anything to do with unsafe behavior, will be dispersed and lose their support network. In addition, we are missing a chance to learn from a place that made me stronger in my career, a better person and a better global citizen.

Kendall B. McConnel Mahn '02

GUEST COLUMN

Keep it weird, keep it awesome

Why I and other students chose MIT

By Martin Martinez Rivera

Numerous MIT alumni, including myself, are rushing to protect Senior House from the recent attacks on the dorm and its community. The Senior House community and set of values were a constant source of joy, belonging, and refuge for me and for so many others, during my years at MIT.

> **"Above all, while they saw opportunities to make the undergraduate experience at MIT more like the experience at its peer institutions, I saw the slow and unstoppable eroding of everything that had convinced me to pick MIT over Stanford and Princeton."**

We have many concerns with the administration's actions, including the disregard for student input and the unethical use of the data from the Healthy Minds survey to justify the freshmen ban and the eventual depopulation of Senior House. These actions signal to many MIT students and alumni a lack of understanding of the culture and needs of Senior House, its residents, and the undergraduate community at large.

The actions of the administration also signal to me a much larger problem with a larger risk to MIT's continued existence as the preeminent science and engineering institution in the world. I do not believe that the current set of professional administrators in charge of undergraduate student life understand what makes MIT unique among the set of accomplished peer institutions to which they so often compare our Institute.

My last year of high school, I received offers with complete financial aid from Princeton, Stanford, and MIT. Many prospective students are also faced with such a choice — between MIT, Stanford, Caltech, Ivy League schools, and other institutions of similar caliber. Those who choose MIT often do so because of its uniqueness, as proudly displayed in MIT admissions website and various other places.

It was the uniqueness and boldness to be different that made me choose MIT without giving much of a serious look to Princeton and Stanford, even as my mom tried to cajole me into choosing Stanford because she was worried about Cambridge's weather. The housing system made me feel like I had the freedom to find a group of people whom I felt connected to, and that meant a lot because I feared my far-from-perfect command of the spoken English language would be interpreted as either shyness or awkwardness. I liked that students could build a roller coaster and nobody would question their motives. I liked that deviating from the norm was not seen as a threat but as an opportunity. Most of all, I liked that even from my small house in the outskirts of Mexico City, I could tell that MIT was a place where I would belong.

I found all of what I wanted at MIT and more. I found people from all walks of life who helped me become a more understanding and tolerant person. I found curious people who invigorated me with their interests and were in turn invigorated by mine. I found a place that encouraged me to learn, not only about the subjects I studied but also about myself. Most importantly, I found Senior House, where I lived for the next four years.

While I found a lot of great things at MIT, I also found myself in the middle of a battle that had been fought for years, possibly decades. Where I saw vibrant, exciting communities, the administration saw potential PR nightmares that had to be mitigated. Where I saw freedom and the chance to grow into an adult on my own terms, the administration saw a lack of structure dangerous to the teenagers that had been entrusted to their care. Above all, while they saw opportunities to make the undergraduate experience at MIT more like the experience at its peer institutions, I saw the slow and unstoppable eroding of everything that had convinced me to pick MIT over Stanford and Princeton.

In his commencement address to the Class of 2017, President Reif encouraged the new graduates to make the world more like MIT. I fear that with each passing year, with each new measure implemented in the name of students' well-being without their input, MIT becomes a bit more like the world it is trying to change.

I sympathize with the complexities the administration faces, and I certainly do not wish to be in their place. The pressure coming from all sides must be endlessly frustrating, but if they want MIT and its undergraduate population to succeed, they must appreciate the uniqueness - the glorious weirdness of MIT. They must also understand that the particular challenges that come with it cannot be solved by applying the cookie-cutter, top-down approaches that are popular at other places and that might have worked there. Administrative policy has to be adapted to fit the challenges of MIT, not crafted for an imaginary Institute where pedestrian solutions to complex problems work "adequately".

Blindly following our peer institutions ignores the most valuable strengths of MIT. Some of these institutions have bigger endowments and name recognition. Most of them do not share neither the democratic ideals of MIT nor MIT's commitment to make a world-class scientific and engineering education a great social equalizer. None of them have MIT's most valuable asset: the weird uniqueness and boldness. MIT must regain confidence in its strengths and assert them as something to be proud of, not something to tame down or be ashamed of. It must trust viscerally in its values, even when that means it stands alone among its peers.

I urge the administration to remember that providing a quality undergraduate education remains one of the best ways to fulfill the mission William Barton Rogers set for this Institute over 150 years ago. The pressing challenges of today and tomorrow will be easier to solve if people with an MIT education are in the frontlines.

Lastly, I ask the administration to consider that the protests to the closure of Senior House do not come from a place of disrespect for authority or a lack of willingness to improve our community. We recognize that Senior House is not without problems and that there will always be room for improvement. Our response comes from a place of mourning. My heart mourns not for myself nor for the alumni who already found Senior House to be a place that allowed us to grow. My heart mourns for the current residents who lost a home after a stressful turnaround effort that was setup to fail from the start. More than anyone, my heart mourns for the future students who will never be given the chance to live there, to paint in its walls a testament to their stay, and to become adults on their own terms.

Martin Martinez Rivera is a member of the MIT Class of 2014, M. Eng. '15

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pilot 2021 will be a fatal experiment

The freshman-focused program "will cause a dramatic increase in undergraduate suicides"

The MIT Administration has announced its inauguration of an experiment on human subjects called "Pilot 2021." They have not yet published the hypothesis they are attempting to test with this experiment. I offer my own hypothesis in the sincere hope that it will be disproved: "Pilot 2021 will cause a dramatic increase in undergraduate suicides."

Sadly, the outcome of this experiment is easily foreseeable as the inevitable result of the experiment's elimination of a critically needed supportive environment for the diverse collection of undergraduates who are at increased risk of suicide due to stress caused by economic pressure, minority ethnicity, hypersensitivity, inadequate social skills, inadequate coping skills, bipolar disorder, ADHD, other mental disorders, family turmoil, unconventional sexuality, extreme creativity, etc.

Until now, a great many of these students, the ones who were arguably most at risk, found the support and encouragement they needed to survive and succeed at MIT within the amazing Senior House community. With Pilot 2021's elimination of this community, most of these students will be relegated to suffer, without effective support, in miserable isolation in other dormitories. Accordingly, a significant increase in suicides will be the inevitable result of the Pilot 2021 experiment unless the Administration alters its admissions policies in order to detect and exclude students with heightened risk.

Hopefully, Administration, at a minimum, will seek the informed consent of incoming students by explicitly disclosing the elimination of the unique Senior House community which has proven its value in serving the special needs of at risk students. Failure to do so would be a serious breach of the ethics of human experimentation.

Richard Kramer '75

Senior House Solidarity

PHOTOS BY KARLEIGH MOORE—THE TECH

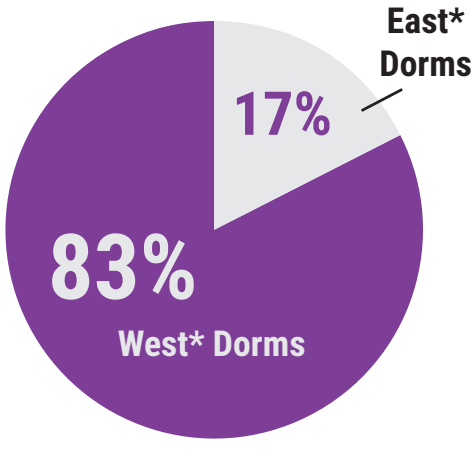
Senior House flags that read "solidarity" were hung from various dorms June 22.

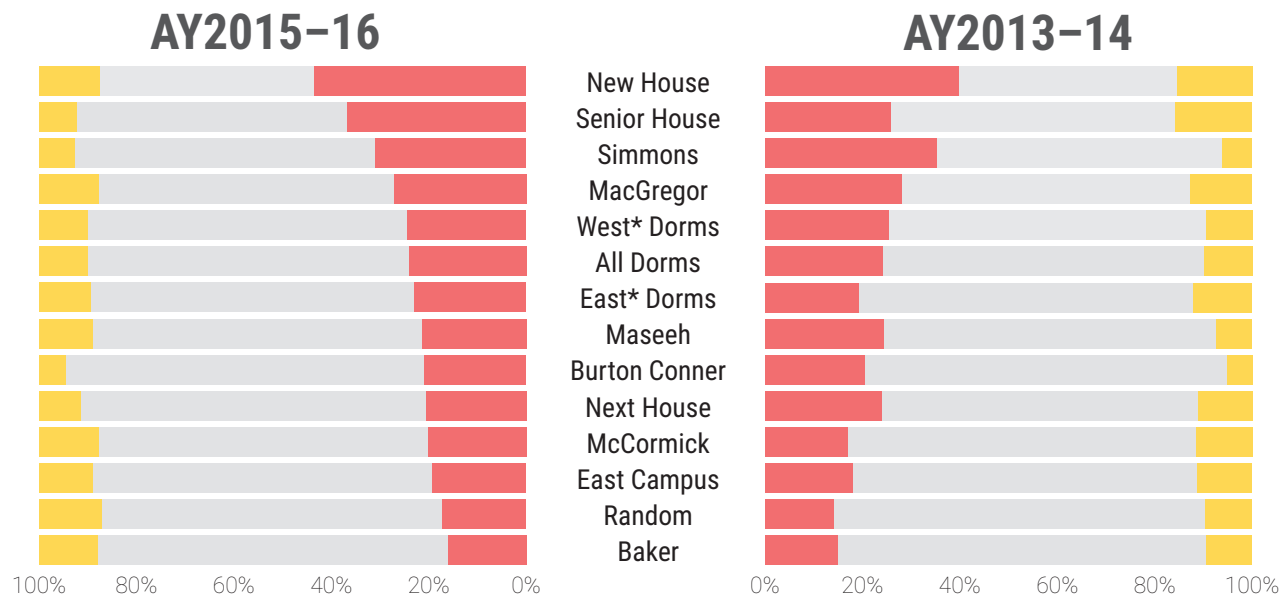
Race & Ethnicity

URM
Non-URM
International

URM: Under-represented Minority, includes Black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaska-Native, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

Where do URM live on campus?





*East Dorms includes East Campus, Senior House, and Random. West Dorms includes all other dorms.

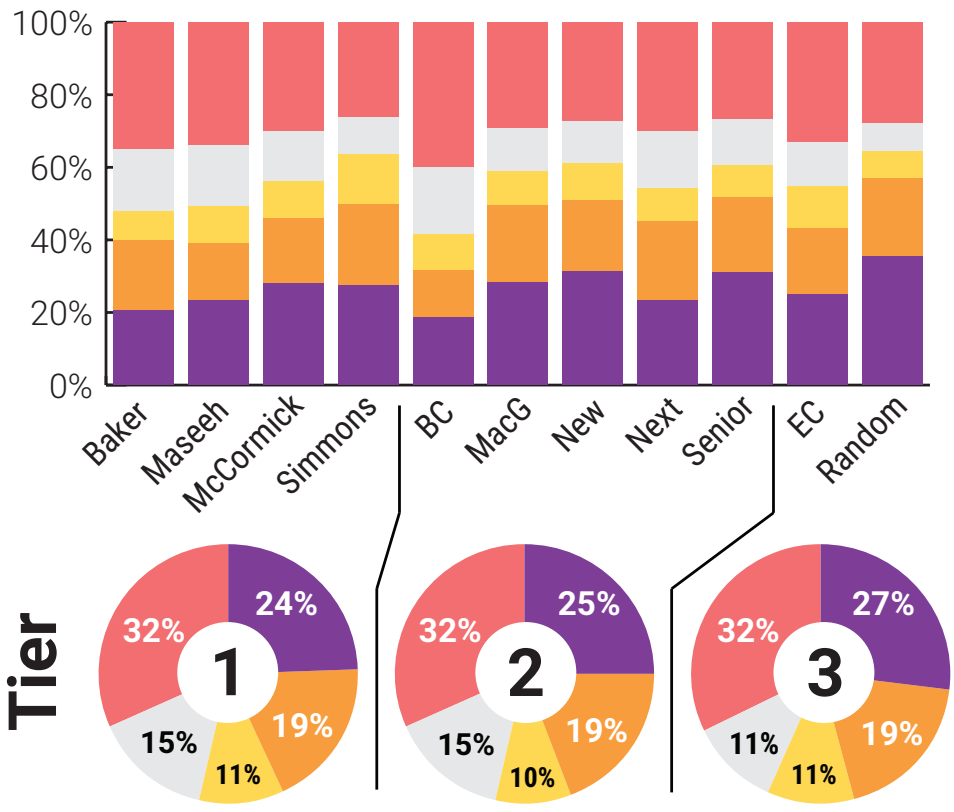
Dorm Demographics

Sources: Registrar's Office, Student Financial Services, Division of Student Life, 2015 Enrollment Student Survey

Graphs reference data from academic year 2015-2016 unless otherwise noted

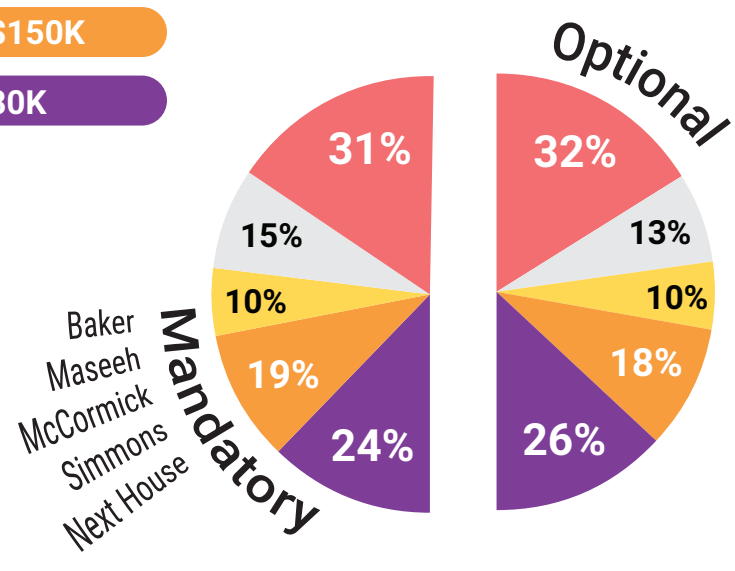
Infographics by Colleen Madlinger

Family Income



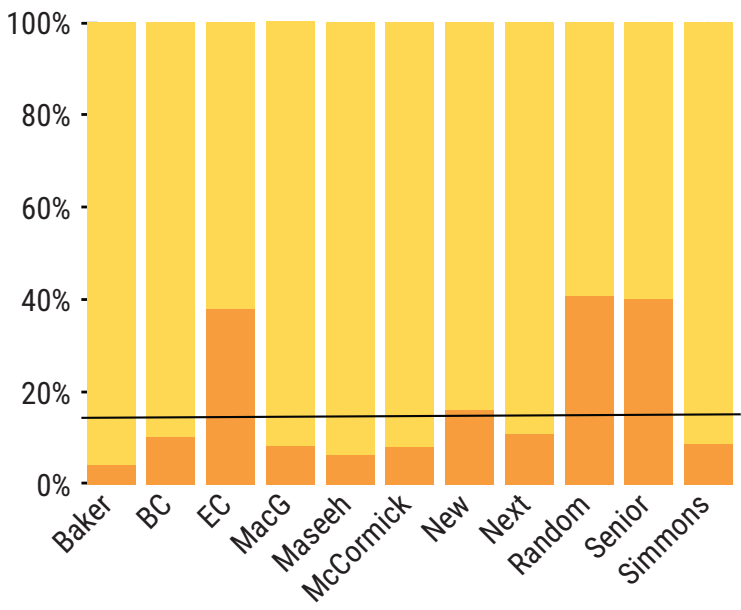
Unknown Income
$200K +
$150 – < $200K
$80 – < $150K
$0 – < $80K

*Who lives in **mandatory meal plan** dorms?*



Sexual Orientation

Question response rate 58%



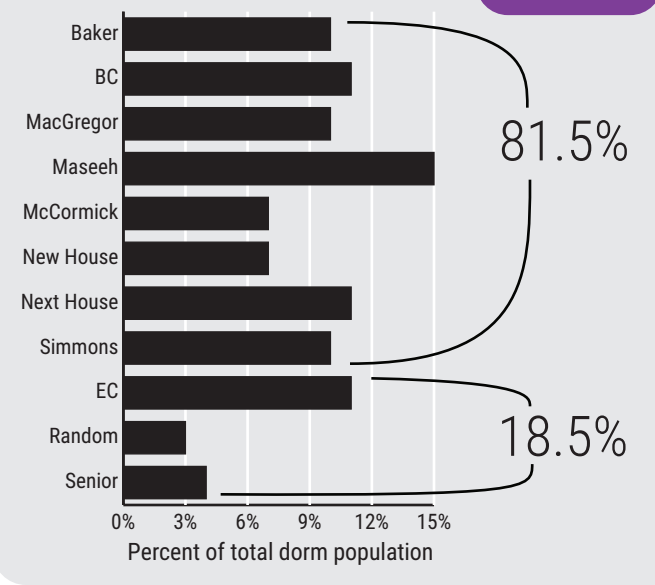
Heterosexual

Gay,
Lesbian,
Bisexual,
Unsure,
Prefer to specify

14%
dorm average

Total

71.9%
of undergrads live in dorms



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pilot 2021 threatens the LGBTQ community at MIT

Three presidents of MIT's LGBTQ organizations respond to Pilot 2021

As the presidents of MIT's three undergraduate LGBTQ organizations, we feel compelled to advocate against the dispersion of one of MIT's largest LGBTQ communities and the destruction of one of its vibrant queer-affirming spaces that has existed for decades in Senior House.

Removing the majority of current residents from Senior House eliminates one of the few visibly queer spaces on campus. Senior House has historically been home to many LGBTQ students, and over 40% of current Senior House residents identify as LGBTQ, according to the Chancellor's office. Eradicating such a living community is not only a tragic loss to current Senior House residents. It is harmful to LGBTQ-identifying students across campus for whom the existence of such spaces indicates safety. It hurts those who chose MIT, as MIT has historically hosted multiple vibrant and openly queer communities. And it threatens that which makes MIT unique and successful: a campus that not only tolerates, but celebrates diversity of all kinds, including that brought by the queer community.

These spaces empower the LGBTQ community to mitigate problems that disproportionately affect LGBTQ students. Nationally, LGBTQ students are more likely to be victims of sexual harassment and/or assault. According to a national study by the Association of American Universities, three out of four LGBTQ students report experiencing sexual harassment. Studies also show that LGBTQ students have lower graduation rates and are more likely to experience mental health issues. These statistics underscore the importance of a community that actively supports queer students. Furthermore, such queer living spaces usually develop organically, and trying to recreate one artificially elsewhere will be difficult, if not impossible.

We have been contacted by a dozen incoming first-years who valued the LGBTQ community in Senior House. Many were worried about living in Senior House if it was not the same queer-friendly space they visited in the spring. Many told us that the presence of such a space would help them feel welcome at MIT, even if they choose not to live in Senior House.

We also worry about the implications for current LGBTQ Senior House residents. These residents have previously decided that living in a vibrant LGBTQ community is the best choice for them. Forcing many of them to move to environments where they might not find the same freedom to be themselves, might be removed from former peer support systems, and might find themselves isolated and without a community, could have significant negative effects on their academics and mental health.

We have expressed our concerns to the administration regarding the consequences of their plans to repopulate Senior House and adopt the new Pilot 2021 program. We met with Chancellor Barnhart and Dean Nelson to voice our fears that their vision for a "new community" will not preserve the queer-affirming space that has existed in Senior House, and will scatter its LGBTQ population across campus.

We have never argued for the end of the reapplication process, nor the end of Pilot 2021 in our letters or meetings with administrators. We are not arguing for it here, either. At first we felt hopeful that the administration shared our goal of preserving Senior House as an LGBTQ space, and keeping the "positive aspects" of its culture in the new community. However, we are troubled to say that meetings between student leaders and administrators in the past week have made it more and more clear that the administration has no intention to preserve Senior House as an accepting and affirming space for LGBTQ students.

They have told us their concerns that maintaining Senior House as a queer-affirming space will unfairly pressure the new community into adopting values of the old. The number of upperclassmen who want to return to Senior House to maintain a queer-affirming community and the interest expressed by many first-years toward such a space leads us to believe that this concern is mostly unfounded. We feel the overwhelming positive contributions of the LGBTQ community in Senior House are being unappreciated and undervalued, and that administration is ignoring a demonstrable demand from incoming and current students to uphold a queer-affirming environment in Senior House.

We believe that what we are asking for is not unreasonable. We are not here to promote drug use and "unsafe behavior." We are asking for the return of a critical mass of Senior House upperclassmen through the reapplication process so that the organic queer community and LGBTQ-affirming space that has historically existed in Senior House can be preserved. We want to be able to tell LGBTQ students on our campus that they are not losing a place where being LGBTQ is not stigmatized, marginalized, or merely tolerated, but celebrated and welcomed. We want to be able to tell incoming first-years who are looking for, or coming for, such a place in Senior House, that it will still exist in Pilot 2021. And we want to be able to say that MIT has not become less than it was before this Fall.

Abraham Bauer, President of Queer West
Anna Kazlauskas, President of G@MIT
Szabolcs Kiss, President of Affiliated

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Give the chancellor a break

Former student leaders reflect on Barnhart's accomplishments

Since her appointment as Chancellor in February 2014, Cynthia Barnhart, PhD '88 has overseen a variety of changes for student life on campus. Recent actions regarding Senior Haus have proven unpopular with some of the student body. However, Chancellor Barnhart has taken, at her own risk, unprecedented steps towards including students in the decision-making process at MIT over the past three years.

> **"Our experiences working with Chancellor Barnhart have shown us that she is worthy of our trust, and is an extraordinary partner in advancing the interests of students."**

One such remarkable moment came with the appointment of Vice President Suzy Nelson. From the beginning of the process, students were invited to contribute to transparent selection of a new Student Life Dean. To do so, the Chancellor's Office reached out to the UA, Panhel, IFC, and DormCon to appoint student representatives to the Search Committee. These students were entrusted with extremely confidential personal and career information about student life professionals at MIT and around the world. For the next year, these representatives solicited feedback from their peers, read countless resumes, organized feedback forums amongst students, and helped make the final offer to VP Nelson.

Another initiative where the Chancellor sought student participation in a large, unprecedented manner was through Mind Hand Heart. In response to student concerns voiced through MIT Confessions and in-person meetings, the Chancellor championed mental health and student wellbeing on campus. Mind Hand Heart's many working groups, heavily populated with students, led to an improved Student Leave Policy, a new Good Samaritan Policy, and a focus on using student input to drive change. The Chancellor's Office has also single-handedly funded many student-initiated and student-led efforts that enable access to mental and physical health resources, in addition to the Mind Hand Heart Initiative's Innovation Fund. The Chancellor's decision to take a multifaceted, grassroots approach to the challenges of mental health and physical wellbeing is singularly remarkable in MIT's history, and is evidence of her desire to involve students in critical areas of their MIT experience.

We should be thankful to have a Chancellor as hands-on, approachable, and caring as Cynthia Barnhart. It is important to realize how much progress has been made in the past three years. If there are concerns about her level of engagement with students, we should recognize that her record has demonstrated her commitment to improving and increasing lines of communication. Instead of criticizing the person behind the decision, we should recognize that the Chancellor wants to engage students in decisions, and help her impact positive change.

If we are to make our community the best it can be, we must learn to trust each other. Part of building that trust is to recognize when we are in disagreement, and work together to resolve it. This requires us to be a little vulnerable; it requires us to believe that the other party has our best interests in mind; and it requires us to take a leap of faith, in the absence of all the information, and work with someone else. Our experiences working with Chancellor Barnhart have shown us that she is worthy of our trust, and is an extraordinary partner in advancing the interests of students. We encourage, and hope, other members of the MIT community will take the opportunity to discover this for themselves.

Matthew Davis '16, Undergraduate Association President 2016
David Dellal '17, Interfraternity Council President 2016
Sophia Liu '17, Undergraduate Association President 2017
Caitlyn Mason '17, Panhellenic Association President 2016
Taylor Rose '16, Panhellenic Association President 2015

We're All In This...

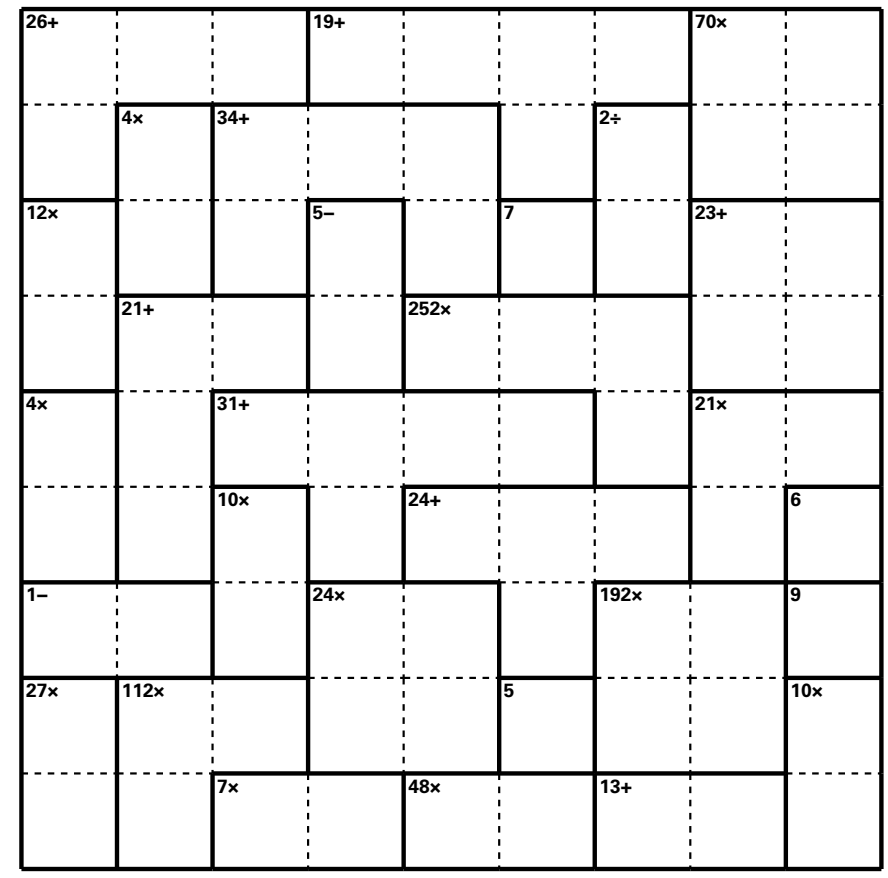
Solution, page 8

	8	2			4		9	
7			8					
	6			9	2		8	
8			5			9		
9		6				2		1
		1			7			3
	1		2	4			7	
					9			2
	4		6			5	3	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

...Together

Solution, page 8



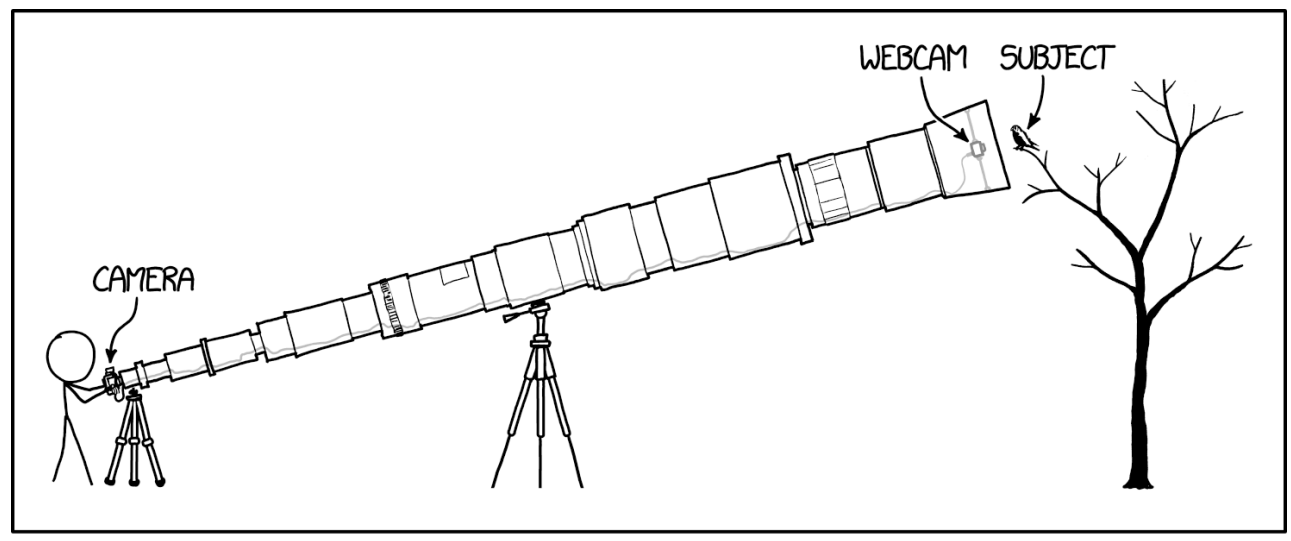
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

xkcd

A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe

[1855] Telephoto

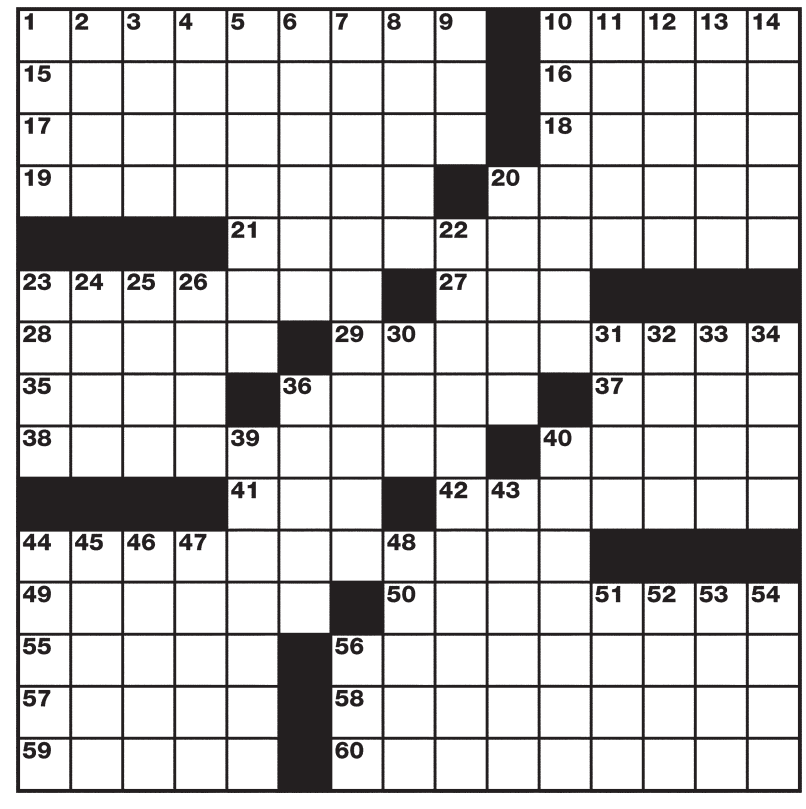


TELEPHOTO TIP: IF YOU ADD ENOUGH CONVERTERS AND EXTENDERS, YOU DON'T ACTUALLY NEED A FANCY LENS.

I was banned from the airliners.net photography forum by concerned moderators after the end of my lens started brushing against planes as they flew by.

Saturday Stumper by Frank Longo

Solution, page 8



ACROSS

1 Force to get things moving
10 Tackled
15 By and large
16 Fancy lots
17 Needing polishing
18 Held back no stars, maybe
19 It's south of Oklahoma
20 Suffix
21 Start of a conversation stopper
23 Help in hunting
27 Miso soup ingredient
28 Big pack
29 Ariadne in Inception
35 Best Western's HQ
36 See 5 Down
37 Estar como __ para chocolate
38 Copper figure
40 Theatrical backdrop
41 Something performed in a tunnel
42 Swan song
44 Part of Ikea's RÄCKA line
49 Second of 88
50 Giving a good push to
55 Word from Old English for "offense"
56 Was juicy
57 Pilot in Follow That Bird
58 Rights
59 Catch suddenly in the infield
60 Utah's Rainbow Bridge, essentially

DOWN

1 Disagreeable
2 Name on the cover of the Mayfair Witches novels
3 Enrich to adorn
4 In history
5 With 36 Across, Don Juan's hometown
6 Table protector
7 Be a balm
8 New __
9 Script detail
10 Won't let go of
11 Take from the stage, at times
12 Part of some magic acts
13 Capacious house
14 Doll's cribmate
20 McCullers British colleague
22 '50s singer heard in V for Vendetta
23 King, in the etymology of "check"
24 Big name in turf maintenance
25 Kerry's home
26 It can make new wood look old
30 __ coat
31 Not 100%
32 Slumdog Millionaire locale
33 Chip topper
34 How prograde orbits proceed
36 Row of connected stamps
39 Comparatively quick
40 Appropriates
43 It's close to a plus
44 Pound collection
45 Appropriate
46 It borders Liechtenstein's capital
47 Oscar also-ran to Faye
48 One to wrangle with
51 Run, as goods
52 Net receipts?
53 More than bright
54 Go round and round, per Humpty Dumpty
56 Poli sci attainments

FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN

AHOH possessed lone record of students' rights

Senior House, from Page 1

read them. According to Senior House residents, this was the only written documentation of the rights; no email containing this information was ever sent.

Senior House residents were sent an email April 20 around 8 p.m. that there would be a "mandatory" house meeting later that evening, Abraham Quintero '17, a Senior House resident at the time, told The Tech.

During this meeting, residents were told that MIT had been informed by police that "they had evidence of a pattern of drug procurement and distribution," said Eric Ponce '17, another former Senior House resident.

During the meeting, residents were informed that interviews had been scheduled for each of them. One Senior House resident was scheduled to meet with the interviewers less than four hours after the email informing them of the time was sent.

Quintero showed The Tech an April 21 email he received from Judy Robinson, senior associate dean for student outreach & support, and Matt Keegan, a Title IX investigator, informing him that an interview with Keegan had been scheduled for him on April 23.

A student member of the Senior House turnaround team told The Tech that the Title IX office was involved because it has experience with interviewing students, not because there were Title IX issues being investigated.

The email specified that the interview was voluntary and that participants could leave at any time and decline to answer any questions. But according to Quintero, residents were told that it would reflect badly on the dorm if they did not participate.

"You may bring with you to your meeting an advisor who is not an attorney or a current Senior House resident. Your advisor will be there to provide you with personal support but will not be able to actively participate in the interview," the email said.

Ponce and Megan Levin '18, told The Tech that during the April 20 meeting, students raised concerns that they didn't know what questions they would be asked during the interviews and wanted to know what their rights were with respect to the process. The email clarified that the interviewers would not ask students about their "individual use." The email did not specify what the "use" referred to but residents confirmed for The Tech that the questions were about drug use.

Criteria for return to SH still under discussion

New House, from Page 1

Tech, Haberlin wrote that "we will take a conservative approach to the bed numbers we assign to first-year and New House students in order to honor the guarantee we are making to Senior House students whose return applications are approved."

What this conservative approach may entail, or what the criteria for the applications are, remains unclear. According to Hapgood-White, Housing has "started to discuss with Senior House residents the criteria we are considering for the application process, but we aren't ready yet to expand these conversations beyond Senior House, UA, and Dormcon."

Haberlin confirmed over a phone interview that there is no pre-determined cap on how many Senior House residents will be allowed to return to their dorm, but emphasized that it will be a very selective process.

No New House residents, beyond the 15 that had arranged to move in prior to the announcement of Pilot 2021, have been confirmed as residents of Senior House next year.

SH is similar to NH in residents' family income

Statistics, from Page 1

tier 3 doubles will be $3,920.

Of the students who live in tier 3 housing, 27 percent reported a family income of less than $80,000, for tier 2 housing this number was 25 percent, and for tier 1, it was 24 percent. 15 percent of students living in tier 1 housing and 15 percent of students living in tier two housing report a family income of more than $200,000, in tier 3 housing, this number was 11 percent.

Income demographics were similar between dining and non-dining dorms as well. 26 percent of students living in a non-dining dorm reported a family income of less than $80,000, this number 24 percent for dining dorms. 15 percent of students in dining dorms reported a family income of more than $200,000, this number was 13 percent in non-dining dorms.

Across all dorms, 25.2 percent of residents reported a family income of less than $80,000; 18.9 percent reported a family income between $80,000 and $150,000; 10.2 percent reported an income between $150,000 and $200,000; 14.1 percent reported an income above $200,000; and 31.6 percent had an unknown income.

Sexual orientation

The average number of non-heterosexual students living in dorms is 14 percent. All east-side dorms had a significantly more than average representation of students who are non-heterosexual: Random had the highest representation at 40.8 percent, followed by Senior House at 40 percent, then East Campus at 38 percent. New House, at 16.1 percent, had slightly more non-heterosexual students than average, all other west-side dorms had less than average representation.

Colleen Madlinger contributed reporting.

Chandrakasan appointed Dean of Engineering School

Anantha Chandrakasan, professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, was announced as the new Dean of the School of Engineering in an email sent out to MIT June 23.

Chandrakasan will assume the role July 1.

Notable programs that Chandrakasan contributed to include SuperUROP, a year-long and publishing-focused UROP opportunity for juniors, and StartMIT, a entrepreneurship IAP course.

Ian Waitz was the previous Dean of the School of Engineering. Waitz was appointed as Vice Chancellor in February, and will step into the role July 1.

Solution to Stumper

from page 7

S	A	L	E	S	T	E	A	M	■	H	A	D	A	T
O	N	A	V	E	R	A	G	E	■	A	D	O	R	E
U	N	R	E	V	I	S	E	D	■	R	A	V	E	D
R	E	D	R	I	V	E	R	■	A	P	P	E	N	D
■	■	■	L	E	T	S	J	U	S	T	S	A	Y	■
S	T	E	A	L	T	H	■	U	D	O	■	■	■	■
H	O	R	D	E	■	E	L	L	E	N	P	A	G	E
A	R	I	Z	■	S	P	A	I	N	■	A	G	U	A
H	O	N	E	S	T	A	B	E	■	A	R	R	A	S
■	■	■	M	R	I	■	L	A	S	T	A	C	T	■
C	U	R	T	A	I	N	R	O	D	S	■	■	■	■
A	S	H	A	R	P	■	I	N	D	U	C	I	N	G
G	U	I	L	T	■	M	A	D	E	M	O	N	E	Y
E	R	N	I	E	■	A	T	O	N	E	S	F	O	R
S	P	E	A	R	■	S	A	N	D	S	T	O	N	E

Solution to We're All

from page 7

1	8	2	7	5	4	3	9	6
7	9	5	8	3	6	1	2	4
4	6	3	1	9	2	7	8	5
8	3	4	5	2	1	9	6	7
9	7	6	4	8	3	2	5	1
5	2	1	9	6	7	8	4	3
3	1	9	2	4	5	6	7	8
6	5	8	3	7	9	4	1	2
2	4	7	6	1	8	5	3	9

Solution to ...Together

from page 7

8	7	6	3	2	4	9	5	1
5	4	3	9	8	1	6	2	7
2	1	9	6	5	7	3	8	4
6	5	4	1	9	2	7	3	8
1	9	8	5	4	6	2	7	3
4	3	2	8	7	9	5	1	6
7	6	5	2	1	3	8	4	9
9	8	7	4	3	5	1	6	2
3	2	1	7	6	8	4	9	5